

Winter 2019

A French Affair: Drawings and Paintings from The Horvitz Collection Horvitz Painting Brochure

Fairfield University Art Museum

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17th- and 18th-Century French Paintings
from The Horvitz Collection



January 25 - March 29, 2019

FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM



Louis-Michel van Loo, *Geneviève-Françoise-Laurette Randon da Malboissière as Melpomene* (Detail)

Gods and heroes populated 17th- and 18th-century French art following the teaching of the Académie Royale de Peinture et de Sculpture (Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture), founded in 1648. The Academy encouraged artists to represent human anatomy and emotion in works with historical, mythological, and religious themes. Rigorous academic training comprised a minimum of seven years of study. Students would achieve mastery of drawing by copying old masters before moving on to making studies after classical sculptures and, if successful, the live model. At the end of their training, candidates competed for the coveted Prix de Rome (Rome Prize). Later, in order to become members of the Academy, they were required to submit two diploma pieces on an assigned topic that would display both their technical skill and their interpretation of historical subjects. Although not all the artists featured in this exhibition pursued careers as history painters — Nicolas de Largillière was a prolific portrait painter and Jean-Honoré Fragonard was most famous for his light-hearted and frothy, secular decorative cycles — almost all emerged from the same artistic incubator, the Academy, which survived until the end of the 19th century.

The exhibition is curated by Alvin L. Clark, Jr., Curator, The Horvitz Collection, and the J.E. Horvitz Research Curator, Emeritus, Department of Drawings, Division of European and American Art, Harvard Art Museums/Fogg.

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

Jean-Baptiste-Marie Pierre (1713-1789), *Pan and Syrinx*, 1746, oil on canvas; 90.2 x 141 cm, (cover, detail)

Michel Corneille the Younger (1642-1708), *The Finding of Moses*, after 1675, oil on canvas; 97.8 x 119.4 cm

Jean-Baptiste Deshayes (1729-1765), *Galatea Discovering Celadon*, ca. 1762, oil on canvas; 52.1 x 38.1 cm

Jean-Honoré Fragonard (1732-1806), *Death of Cleopatra*, ca. 1763, oil on canvas; 36.8 x 45.1 cm

Louis-Jean-François Lagrenée (1725-1805), *Sarah Presenting Hagar to Abraham*, ca. 1781, oil on copper, laid down on panel; 29.2 x 36.2 cm

Nicolas de Largillière (1656-1746), *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*, ca. 1690-1695, oil on canvas; 49.5 x 64.8 cm

Charles Meynier (1768-1832), *Hecuba Discovering the Body of Her Son, Polydorus*, ca. 1792, oil on canvas; 59.1 x 74.9 cm

Charles Poerson (1609-1667), *Meeting of Mark Antony and Cleopatra*, ca. 1645, oil on canvas; 20.3 x 15.9 cm

Louis-Michel van Loo (1707-1771), *Charles-Nicolas Cochin the Younger*, 1767, oil on canvas; 73.7 x 59.7 cm

Louis-Michel van Loo (1707-1771), *Geneviève-Françoise-Laurette Randon da Malboissière as Melpomene*, ca. 1765, oil on canvas; 92.1 x 71.8 cm



Jean-Baptiste-Marie Pierre, *Pan and Syrinx*



Jean-Baptiste Deshayes, *Galatea Discovering Celadon*



Jean-Honoré Fragonard, *Death of Cleopatra*



Louis-Jean-François Lagrenée, *Sarah Presenting Hagar to Abraham*



Nicolas de Largillière, *Christ in the House of Martha and Mary*



Michel Corneille the Younger, *The Finding of Moses*



Charles Poerson, *Meeting of Mark Antony and Cleopatra*

A French Affair: Paintings and Drawings from The Horvitz Collection

January 25 – March 29, 2019

EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

Thursday, January 24, 5 p.m.

*Collecting French Art: A Conversation with Jeffrey Horvitz
and Alvin L. Clark Jr.*

Bellarmino Hall, Diffley Board Room

Thursday, January 24, 6-7:30 p.m.

Opening Reception

Bellarmino Hall, Great Hall and
Bellarmino Hall Galleries

Saturday, February 2, Noon

Gallery Talk: Drawing for Books in 18th-Century France

Sarah Cantor, PhD, Kress Interpretive Fellow
Bellarmino Hall, Bellarmino Hall Galleries

Thursday, February 7, 11 a.m.

Art in Focus: Pierre-Paul Prud'hon,

Sylvia and the Satyr, 1800

With Michelle DiMarzo, PhD, Curator of Education
and Academic Engagement
Bellarmino Hall, Bellarmino Hall Galleries

Saturday, February 9, 1-4 p.m. (2 sessions)

Family Day: Fun with Book Illustration

Bellarmino Hall, SmART Classroom

Tuesday, February 12, 6-7:30 p.m.

Performance: ekphrasis vii

Fairfield University MFA students read original
pieces inspired by the works on view in *A French Affair:
Paintings and Drawings from The Horvitz Collection*
Bellarmino Hall, Bellarmino Hall Galleries

Thursday, February 21, 5 p.m.

Gallery Talk: Drawings to Prints

Sarah Cantor, PhD, Kress Interpretive Fellow
Bellarmino Hall, Bellarmino Hall Galleries

Wednesday, February 27, 7-9 p.m.

Event: A Drawing Party

Drawing materials and light refreshments are provided.
Bellarmino Hall Galleries and smART classroom,
Bellarmino Hall
Co-sponsored by the Creative Life Residential College

Wednesday, March 6, 5 p.m.

Lecture: 18th-Century French Drawings

Elizabeth Rudy, PhD, Carl A. Weyerhaeuser Associate
Curator of Prints, Harvard Art Museums

Bellarmino Hall, Diffley Board Room

*Part of the Edwin L. Weisl, Jr. Lectureships in Art History,
funded by the Robert Lehman Foundation*

All events are free of charge and open to the public. Advance registration is recommended. For more information on the exhibition and related programming, and to register for events, visit the museum's website: fairfield.edu/museum

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